

We camped there for sometime near a big spring northwest of Winchester.

Toward the latter part of October Gen. McClellan showed signs of an intention to advance into Virginia, east of the Blue Ridge. So we were marched across the mountains, and were kept marching until we were brought up in front of Fredericksburg. Here we learned that McClellan had been removed and that Burnside had been placed in command of the *Army of the Potomac*.

As we neared Fredericksburg we met old men and old women and children, some on foot, some in carriages, some being hauled in wagons; many of them apparently too sick to travel; all vacating the town because the Federal commander had threatened to bombard it, which he did do a few days thereafter.

It had been decided to organize the army anew and to brigade the troops by States, so just preceding the battle of Fredericksburg our regiment, the 6th, together with the 21st, the 54th and 57th N. C. Regiments were formed into a brigade, of which Gen. R. F. Hoke was given command.

Our brigade, during the battle of Fredericksburg, was on the line between Hamilton's Crossing and the town, about in front of the Barnard House. Gen. Franklin commanded that portion of the Federal army which confronted us. His attack was very powerful, and soon after the battle began the enemy took advantage of an interval that was inadvertently allowed in the line on our right towards Hamilton's Crossing and broke through. Here it was that Gen. Gregg, of South Carolina, was mortally wounded. But the enemy's success was only temporary, for they were soon repulsed and they did not, after that, show much disposition to press forward. Late in the afternoon our brigade was called upon to drive the enemy from an advanced position which they were holding along the railroad where it crossed Hazel Run or Deep Run. The 54th and 57th Regiments were placed in advance, and they drove the enemy in handsome style clear away from the rail road. This line we held. On the morning of the second day thereafter we found that

there was no enemy in front of us. They were all on the north side of the Rappahanock.

The campaigns of 1862 were over.

We went into winter quarters on the hills south-west of Hamilton's Crossing, and during the winter did our share of picketing along the river between Fredericksburg and Port Royal.

Gen. Burnside made an unsuccessful attempt to advance in January, 1863, but was forced to abandon it on account of the mud, and that movement was known as Burnside's "Mud March." He resigned and Gen. Hooker was placed in command of the Army of the Potomac. When he made his advance on what is known as "The Chancellorsville" or "The Wilderness Campaign," our brigade was near the same part of the line which we occupied during the battle in December before.

There was no very heavy fighting near Fredericksburg until the 4th. Gen. Sedgewick, who was in command of the enemy's forces about Fredericksburg, moved out of the town, attacked and captured Maryie's Hill, where there was such awful destruction of life in December previous; and he appeared to be moving so as to strike the right of Gen. Lee's line of battle up toward Chancellorsville. Our brigade was commanded by Gen. Hoke, and we were at once moved from our position below Deep Run, so as to attack the enemy, who was then on the hills south of the town. The conflict was sharp, but short, and they were soon on the retreat. In this fight Gen. Hoke was wounded. By the next morning Hooker and his army were again on the north side of the Rappahanock.

After a short rest our brigade was moved westward, and, crossed the Rapidan towards Culpepper Court House; and after the battle of Brandy Station we were carried by long, hurried marches over the Blue Ridge, crossing the Shannandoah at Front Royal, and thence to Winchester. There we took part in the battle which resulted in the capture of Milroy's command, although he himself escaped. There was a large number of prisoners, and one of our regiments,